

ABC's of Seville

A:

Aseos que están en todo el mundo aquí. Before I went to Spain, I thought, like most amateur speakers, bathrooms were "baños." This is however, not the case. The bathroom at the Alhambra in Granada was beautiful, made of marble. Others were not as nice but all the toilets had flush buttons on the top of the drain cover, which is obviously different than the normal handle we see in the US.



Alcázar in Córdoba struck me with the fusion of Muslim and Catholic traditions. After the Reconquista, the Catholics built a church inside this Mosque and the picture I have illustrates the difference between the two: The left is the Muslim side which is simple, just made of stone and paint whereas the right, Catholic Church, is ornate with gold and stained glass everywhere.

C:

Cabalgata-¡Nos divertimos muchísimo aunque los caramelos nos golpearon! The Cabalgata is the Three Kings Parade that takes place twelve days after Christmas. In Spain they do not have Santa Claus, instead Spanish children wait until January 6th to receive their Christmas presents from the Three Magi, who came to Bethlehem bearing gifts for the Christ child.



E: Elephunk, el

discoteca que vamos todas las noches en Sevilla y donde conocimos mucha gente interesante. Elephunk is one of the many discotecas in Seville, which became our favorite. People don't go out at night until 12 o'clock and come home usually around 5 o'clock. It is a totally different city at night; everything is dark but welcoming and the people you see are usually young-just looking to have fun and avoid work.



F:

Flan is a traditional food of Spain, which is similar to crème brûlée in France. It is made of custard and sugar and is DELICIOSO!!!!

Flamenco con los músicos y bailarines talentosos y uno que le gusta Cherise. Especialmente me gusta la voz del cantante. Flamenco is a traditional dance of Spain, which is composed of a lot of quick leg movements and clapping. It is extremely difficult to master and usually accompanied by music.



G: Granada y Generalife, estoy

tan contenta que vi la Alhambra, era muy especial para mí porque mi profesora en colegio secundario me mostraba fotos de la Alhambra y finalmente veo con mis propios ojos. Granada is an amazing city famous for being the last Muslim city to be conquered in the Reconquista by the Catholics in 1492. The Alhambra and Generalife are amazing sites-visitors are privy to this Muslim city which contains plants and other original relics intact from the 15th Century. One of the most famous images, shown here as the actual reflection pool and a painting of it, illustrates the importance of water as an irrigation, cooling and drinking system.

M: Marco, el hermano

español de Cherise y Ana. Marco was Cherise's house brother who showed us around Seville. Marco had an amazing ability to make you feel like you were the center of his universe when he spoke to you. He embodied the traditional Andalusian stereotype of a zest for life and a total disregard for the concerns of most adults; work, family and money.



P: Patio de las

naranjas en el Alcázar en Córdoba. Me sentía a paz allí y pasaría todos de mis días allí. As you enter the patio outside of the Mosque in Córdoba you are hit with a sense of peace and tranquility that the Muslims must have felt during their time there. It is a place that can have no explanation because its beauty is felt, not seen or heard.



Palacio Real era muy guapa —especialmente el salón del trono. Es tan interesante a pensar en los días cuando Franco recibió dignatarios y otras personas importantes allí. The Royal Palace was a site to behold its beauty is matched by its functionality. It contains a pharmacy where the apothecary made all the medicine for the royal family.



Q: Querida

María Pepa, mi madre de casa/española que era una buena persona. ¡Ella es la mejor cocinera en todo el mundo! Ella hizo espinaca y garbanzo para nuestra primera almuerzo-era deliciosa. My Dear house mother, María Pepa, cooked the most delicious Spanish food and educated me on the customs.



R: Roscón de los

reyes-¡mi favorita costumbre nueva de Navidad! Quiero comprar y comer un roscón cuando tendré niños y les diré el cuento de mi primer roscón que comí en la calle San Jacinto en Sevilla, España y como celebraba Navidad por una semana más de normal. ¡Era fantástico! The Roscón is another part of Spain's Christmas tradition. It is a cake filled with whipped cream and inside the baker hides a prize, usually a little ornament or figurine. Whoever finds the prize within has good luck for the entire year!



T: Toledo!

El viaje a Toledo era muy divertido. Mi parte favorita era ver el cuadro de El Greco, **EL ENTIERRO DEL CONDE DE ORGÁZ**. Era un momento tan emocionante porque cuando vi este cuadro, finalmente me dio cuenta de estar en España. Toledo, a fortress city, houses El Greco's most famous painting named above.



U: Doce

Uvas que comemos a las doce de la mañana para buena suerte-otra costumbre divertida. Emilia y yo nos derramos el juego de las uvas en nuestras camisas a causa de apurarnos de comerlas. Another Spanish tradition at New Year's is to eat twelve grapes in twelve seconds at the stroke of midnight. If you finish them on time you will have good luck for twelve months!



V: Vino de naranja que era

interesante. Esa noche nos divertimos muchísimo porque el vino es fuerte. Hablo en broma pero me encantan las fotos. We drank orange wine, which is more like a liquor than wine-strong but sweet.



Z: zoológico falso en frente del

Corte Inglés en Madrid. Me gustan los animales que cantan canciones de Navidad y su cuidador. The Corte Inglés, a one-stop shopping center for anything you could possibly need, had an amazing display of animals with a zoo keeper on the front of their store who became animated and sang at 10 o'clock every night. Hundreds of people congregate outside to watch this spectacle, which is another holiday tradition.

Please enjoy my ABC's of Seville. I wrote it as a fun way to remember all the amazing events of my winter abroad trip to Spain. The first part is in my original Spanish. Some of the letters are missing due to space constraints but these are the most exciting ones! Thank you very much!

-Betsy Boig, Sophomore Spanish Major